1.   An information item placement system comprising:

      a document;

      a plurality of information items;

      a location specification component; and

the location specification component facilitating the selective specification of placement information for the plurality of information items within the document.

2.   The information item placement system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of information items selectively comprises signatures, images, dates, images, text and / or logos.

3.   The information item placement system of claim 2 wherein the selectively specified placement information for the plurality of information items within the document is saved as part of the document.

4.   The secure information item placement system of claim 2 wherein the selectively specified placement information for the plurality of information items within the document is saved separately from the document.

5.   The information item placement system of claim 1 wherein the location specification component is a document viewer software that displays the document and provides location specification means.

6.   The information item placement system of claim 5 wherein the location specification means comprises a drag-and-drop box drawing utility with optional box relocation features.

7.   The information item placement system of claim 6 wherein the drag-and-drop box drawing utility captures the page number and the x- and y- coordinates of a rectangular box drawn within a page to specify the placement of one of the plurality of information items in the document.

8.   The information item placement system of claim 7 wherein placement information for the one of the plurality of information items in the document is selectively replaced by redrawing the rectangular box to specify a new location of the one of the plurality of information items in the document.

9.   The information item placement system of claim 1 wherein placement information for each of the plurality of information items is expressed in terms of a page number of an associated page where it occurs in the document and the x- and y-coordinates of its location within the associated page.

10.   The information item placement system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of information items comprises one or more signatures and dates and wherein the document comprises:

a plurality of original document content sections;

an image signature and date coordinates section for saving the placement information of one or more signatures and dates;

an associated image signatures and dates sections for saving one or more signatures and dates; and

a message digest section that is used to store a message digest that is computed selectively employing the contents of one or more of the other sections of the document.

11.   The information item placement system of claim 10 wherein the plurality of original document content sections comprises a plurality of sections of a document originally created using a document editor.

12.   The information item placement system of claim 10 wherein the plurality of original document content sections comprises a plurality of scanned sections of a document.

13.   The information item placement system of claim 10 further comprising:

the location specification means comprising a drag-and-drop box drawing utility with optional box relocation features;

the drag-and-drop box drawing utility facilitating the selective specification of placement information for the plurality of information items within the document;

the drag-and-drop box drawing utility wherein the drag-and-drop box drawing utility captures the page number and the x- and y- coordinates of a rectangular box drawn within a page to specify the placement of one of the plurality of information items in the document; and

the drag-and-drop box drawing utility wherein the placement information for each of the plurality of information items expressed in terms of a page number of an associated page where it occurs in the document and a pair of x- and y-coordinates corresponding to a rectangular box drawn on the associated page specifying its location within the associated page.

14.   The information item placement system of claim 13 wherein placement information for each of the plurality of information items is selectively replaced by redrawing the rectangular box drawn on the associated page or by adjusting the value of the associated pair of x- and y-coordinates.

15.   An information item placement system comprising:

a document;

a plurality of information items that is selectively placed in the document;

an Internet browser that is used to retrieve the document;

an Internet-based location specification component that works in conjunction with the Internet browser;

the Internet-based location specification component facilitating the viewing of the document when retrieved via the Internet browser; and

the Internet-based location specification component facilitating the selective specification of placement information for the plurality of information items within the document.

16.   The information item placement system of claim 15 wherein the Internet-based location specification component further comprising:

a drag-and-drop rectangular box drawing utility for drawing a rectangular box that specifies the coordinates of one of the plurality of information items; and

the drag-and-drop rectangular box drawing utility facilitating selective relocation of the rectangular box that specifies the coordinates of one of the plurality of information items.

17.   The information item placement system of claim 16 wherein the information item placement system further comprises:

a paper document;

a scanner for scanning the paper document;

the Internet-based location specification component facilitating the creation of the document by the scanning of the paper document on the scanner; and

the Internet-based location specification component facilitating the selective specification of placement information for the plurality of information items within the document.

18.   The information item placement system of claim 15 wherein the information item placement system further comprising:

a document repository; and

the information item placement system saving the document along with the specification of placement information for the plurality of information items in the document at the document repository as a template.

19.   The information item placement system of claim 18 wherein the information item

placement system further comprising:

        the information item placement system facilitating the retrieval of the template;

        the information item placement system facilitating the population of the plurality of

information items in the template creating a populated document; and

        the information item placement system facilitating the storage of the populated document.

20.   A method of specifying placement information in a secure signature and date placement

system used to insert a plurality of signatures and dates in a document, the method of specifying

placement information comprising:

        retrieving the document;

        navigating to the right page in the document;

        dragging and dropping a rectangular box on the right page;

        capturing the corresponding x- and y-coordinates of the rectangular box;

        specifying a content type for the location specified by the rectangular box as a signature or

date;

        selectively associating a placeholder content for the rectangular box for display purposes;

        saving the page number and the x- and y-coordinates as a placement information for one of

the plurality of signatures and dates and associating the placement information with the one of the

plurality of signatures and dates.